

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REMOVE FOUR SUBCATEGORIES OF COMBUSTION TURBINES FROM THE COMBUSTION TURBINE SOURCE CATEGORY

ACTION

- On March 31, 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule that would remove four of the eight subcategories of combustion turbines that the Agency is required to regulate under the Clean Air Act. This proposal would remove the four subcategories from EPA's Maximum Achievable Control Technology or MACT standards designed to control toxic air emissions.
- The four subcategories EPA is proposing to remove from emissions control are: 1) lean premix gas-fired turbines, 2) diffusion flame gas-fired turbines, 3) emergency stationary combustion turbines, and 4) stationary combustion turbines operated on the North Slope of Alaska. With the exception of the emergency turbines, these turbines primarily burn natural gas and may use oil as a backup (no more than 1,000 hours per year). The emergency turbines mostly burn oil.
- EPA is taking this action in part to respond to a petition submitted by the Gas Turbine Association and in part upon the Administrator's own motion. In addition to reviewing the Association's information, EPA conducted its own analysis on the source category to determine if any of the subcategories could be removed from regulatory consideration.
- After reviewing the industry's request, and evaluating internal analyses, EPA has concluded that four subcategories meet the health and environmental criteria for delisting as required by the Clean Air Act.
- The Clean Air Act permits EPA to remove a category of industries known as a "source category" from the list to be regulated provided certain health and environmental protection criteria are met.
- EPA will take public comment for 60 days following Federal Register publication of this proposed rule. The Agency will hold a public hearing on the proposal if it receives requests within 15 days of publication.

BACKGROUND

- A combustion turbine is an engine that burns fuel. The products of combustion are then allowed to expand through a rotating turbine to produce power.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate industry sectors called source categories that emit hazardous air pollutants. These 188 hazardous air pollutants, listed in the Clean Air

Act, are known, or suspected, to cause cancer or other serious health problems.

- Any person may petition EPA to delist a source category or subcategory. The EPA Administrator may also initiate the process.
- The law allows EPA to consider petitions to remove source categories and subcategories from the list if no facility in the category:
 1. emits carcinogens in amounts that may result in a lifetime risk of cancer exceeding one in a million to the individual most exposed;
 2. emits noncarcinogens in amounts that exceed a level which is adequate to provide an ample margin of safety to protect the public health; and
 3. emits any single or combination of hazardous air pollutant(s) in amounts that will result in adverse environmental effects.
- Once EPA receives a petition, the Agency evaluates the technical merit of the petition, and determines whether it satisfies the requirements of the Clean Air Act. When that comprehensive evaluation is complete, EPA decides whether to propose removing the source category or subcategory from the list to be regulated.
- EPA will base its final decision on whether to remove the four subcategories from the source category list based on the public comments received on this proposal and any additional information that becomes available between this proposal and a final rule.
- The Gas Turbines Association submitted its original petition in August of 2002 and provided additional materials in February of 2003. EPA has been conducting the technical review since that time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Copies of the original petition and its supporting information are available for public inspection and copying at the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Comments should be mailed to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102T), Attention Docket Number OAR-2003-189, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- For further information including the proposed rule and the Federal Register notice once published, go to EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>.